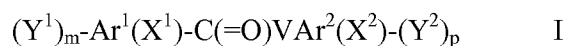


Amendments to the Claims

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A compound of the general formula I



wherein

V designates ~~$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$~~ ;

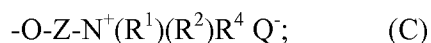
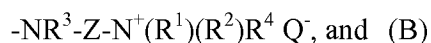
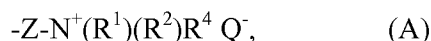
~~Ar¹ and Ar² independently are selected from aryl and heteroaryl;~~

m is an integer selected from the group consisting of 0, 1, and 2,

p is an integer selected from the group consisting of 0, 1, and 2,

wherein the sum of m and p is at least 1;

each Y¹ and Y² independently represents a substituent selected from A, B, and C



~~wherein Z is $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$, wherein n is 1-4; Z is a biradical $-(\text{C}(\text{R}^H)_2)_n-$, wherein n is an integer in the range of 1-6 and each R^H is independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl, or wherein $(\text{R}^H)_2$ is $=\text{O}$;~~

R¹, R² and R⁴ independently are selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₄₋₁₂-alkadienyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₂-alkatrienyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl; or R¹ and R² together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached ($-N(R^1)R^2$) form an optionally substituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

R³ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, and C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl, said alkyl and alkylcarbonyl optionally carrying substituent(s) selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, and aryl optionally

substituted 1-3 times with C₁₋₄-alkyl, C₁₋₄-alkoxy, nitro, cyano, amino or halogen; or R¹ and R³ together form a biradical Z* which is as defined for Z;

Q is an anion;

X¹ and X² independently designate a substituent present 0-5 times on Ar¹ and Ar², respectively, each X¹ and X² independently being selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₄₋₁₂-alkadienyl, optionally substituted C₆₋₁₂-alkatrienyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, hydroxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkoxy, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyloxy, carboxy, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, formyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl, optionally substituted arylamino, arylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroarylamino, heteroarylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylamino, heterocyclylsulphonylamino, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonylamino, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, cyano, guanidino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, aminosulfonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)aminosulfonyl, nitro, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkylthio, and halogen, where any nitrogen-bound C₁₋₆-alkyl is optionally substituted with hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carboxy, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonylamino, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkyl-sulphonyl-amino, or guanidino; and salts thereof.

40. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein R¹, R² and R⁴ independently are selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkenyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₁₂-alkynyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂-alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, and mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl.

41. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein R^3 is selected from hydrogen and methyl.

42. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein X^1 and X^2 independently designates 0-4 substituents, where such optional substituents independently are selected from optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkyl, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkenyloxy, carboxy, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkylcarbonyl, formyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl, optionally substituted arylamino, arylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, heteroarylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylamino, amino, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonylamino, amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-carbonylamino, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-carbonylamino, guanidino, carbamido, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphiny, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonyloxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkylthio, aminosulfonyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)aminosulfonyl, and halogen, where any nitrogen-bound C_{1-6} -alkyl may be substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, and halogen.

43. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^4 independently are selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl, and mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl.

44. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein X^1 and X^2 independently designate 0-3 substituents, such optional substituents independently being selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkoxy, carboxy, optionally substituted C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted arylamino, arylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, heteroarylsulphonylamino, amino,

mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonylamino, guanidino, carbamido, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkylthio, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocycloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylamino and halogen, where any nitrogen-bound C₁₋₆-alkyl may be substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, and halogen.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein at least one of Ar¹ and Ar² is phenyl.

47. (Original) The compound according to claim 46, wherein both of Ar¹ and Ar² are phenyl, m is 1 or 2, and p is 0, 1 or 2.

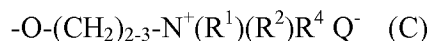
48. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein X² represents at least one substituent selected from C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted arylamino, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroarylamino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonylamino, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkylthio, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocycloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylamino and halogen.

49. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein X² represents at least two halogen atoms.

50.-51. (Cancelled)

52.-54. (Canceled)

55. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, wherein one of Y¹ and Y² represents a substituent of the formula C



wherein R¹, R² and R⁴ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl.

56. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 52, wherein V is $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$, and Ar^1 and Ar^2 both are phenyl.

57. (Original) The compound according to claim 39, which is selected from the group consisting of:

(2-{3-[3-(2-Chloro-4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-oxo-propenyl]-3',5'-dimethyl-biphenyl-4-yloxy}-ethyl)-trimethyl-ammonium, iodide;

(2-{3-[3-(4-Amino-phenyl)-3-oxo-propenyl]-3',5'-dimethyl-biphenyl-4-yloxy}-ethyl)-trimethyl-ammonium, iodide;

(2-{3-[3-(2-Amino-phenyl)-3-oxo-propenyl]-3',5'-dimethyl-biphenyl-4-yloxy}-ethyl)-trimethyl-ammonium, iodide;

4-{3-[3-(2-Fluoro-4-methoxy-phenyl)-3-oxo-propenyl]-2'-methoxy-biphenyl-4-yl}-1,1-dimethyl-piperazin-1-ium, iodide;

{3-[3-(4-Dibutylamino-phenyl)-acryloyl]-benzyl}-trimethyl-ammonium, iodide;

3-[4-(2-Trimethylammonium-ethoxy)-biphenyl-3-yl]-1-(3-trimethylammonium-phenyl)-propanone, di-iodide; and

3-[4-(2-trimethylammonium-ethoxy)-3',5'-dimethyl-biphenyl-3-yl]-1-(2-trimethylammonium-4-methoxy-phenyl)-propanone, di-iodide.

58. (Currently Amended) A method for treating bacterial infections in a mammal comprising administration of a compound as defined in claim 39, of the general formula I



wherein

V designates $\text{---CH}_2\text{---CH}_2\text{---}$, ---CH=CH--- or $\text{---C}\equiv\text{C---}$;

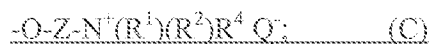
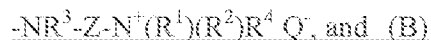
Ar^1 and Ar^2 independently are selected from aryl;

m is an integer selected from the group consisting of 0, 1, and 2,

p is an integer selected from the group consisting of 0, 1, and 2,

wherein the sum of m and p is at least 1;

each Y^1 and Y^2 independently represents a substituent selected from A, B, and C



wherein Z is a biradical $-(C(R^H)_2)_n-$, wherein n is an integer in the range of 1-6 and each R^H is independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-5} -alkyl, or wherein $(R^H)_2$ is =O;

R^1 , R^2 and R^4 independently are selected from optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{4-12} -alkadienyl, optionally substituted C_{6-12} -alkatrienyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkynyl, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl-aminocarbonyl; or R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached ($-N(R^1)R^2$) form an optionally substituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

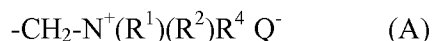
R^3 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, and C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyl, said alkyl and alkylcarbonyl optionally carrying substituent(s) selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, carboxy, C_{1-6} -alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbonyl, amino, mono- and di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino, and aryl optionally substituted 1-3 times with C_{1-4} -alkyl, C_{1-4} -alkoxy, nitro, cyano, amino or halogen; or R^1 and R^3 together form a biradical Z^* which is as defined for Z;

Q is an anion;

X^1 and X^2 independently designate a substituent present 0-5 times on Ar^1 and Ar^2 , respectively, each X^1 and X^2 independently being selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{4-12} -alkadienyl, optionally substituted C_{6-12} -alkatrienyl, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkynyl, hydroxy, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkoxy, optionally substituted C_{2-12} -alkenyloxy, carboxy, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted C_{1-12} -alkylcarbonyl, formyl, C_{1-6} -alkylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl, optionally substituted arylamino, arylsulphonylamino, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heteroarylamino, heteroarylsulphonylamino,

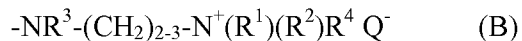
optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclyloxy, optionally substituted heterocyclylcarbonyl, optionally substituted heterocyclylamino, heterocyclylsulphonylamino, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carbamoyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonylamino, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonylamino, cyano, guanidino, carbamido, C₁₋₆-alkanoyloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphinyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulphonyloxy, aminosulfonyl, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)aminosulfonyl, nitro, optionally substituted C₁₋₆-alkylthio, and halogen, where any nitrogen-bound C₁₋₆-alkyl is optionally substituted with hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₂₋₆-alkenyloxy, amino, mono- and di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, carboxy, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbonylamino, halogen, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkyl-sulphonyl-amino, or guanidino; and salts thereof.

59. (New) The compound according to claim 39, wherein one of Y¹ and Y² represents a substituent of the formula A



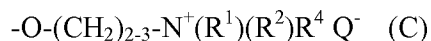
wherein R¹, R² and R⁴ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl.

60. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein one of Y¹ and Y² represents a substituent of the formula B



wherein R³ is selected from hydrogen and methyl, and R¹, R² and R⁴ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl.

61. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein one of Y¹ and Y² represents a substituent of the formula C



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are independently C_{1-6} -alkyl.